

# Nature Quiz

TMN-COT Meeting March, 2014  
by Barbara Burkhardt

**Hummers**

## Question: Species Quiz # 1

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**What are the two most common hummingbird species found in Texas?**

**Extra points for SPECIES names.**

## Question: Species Quiz # 2

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**List the continents on which hummingbirds are found.**

# Question: Species Quiz # 3

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## True or False

Hummingbirds drink through their beaks like a straw.

## Question: Species Quiz # 4

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**How does a hummer's nest stretch?**

# Question: Species Quiz # 5

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**What is torpor?**

## Question: Species Quiz # 6

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**What species of hummingbird travels the greatest distance during migration?**

# Question: Species Quiz #7

- Identify these 4 species of hummingbirds.

1



2



3



4





## Question: Species Quiz # 8

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**True or False?**

**Hummingbirds are the second largest family of birds in the Western Hemisphere.**

## Question: Species Quiz # 9

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**True or False?**

**Hummingbirds feed only  
on nectar.**

# Question: Species Quiz # 10



Photo by Kathy Adams Clark

**Who is this  
famous lady?**

# Answers: Species Quiz # 1

What are the 2 most common hummingbird species in Texas?

- 1. Ruby Throat (*Archilochus colubris*)
- 2. Black-chinned (*Archilochus alexandri*)
- **Family Name: Trochilidae (Order Apodiformes)**



Male



# Answers: Species Quiz # 1, continued

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RT



BC

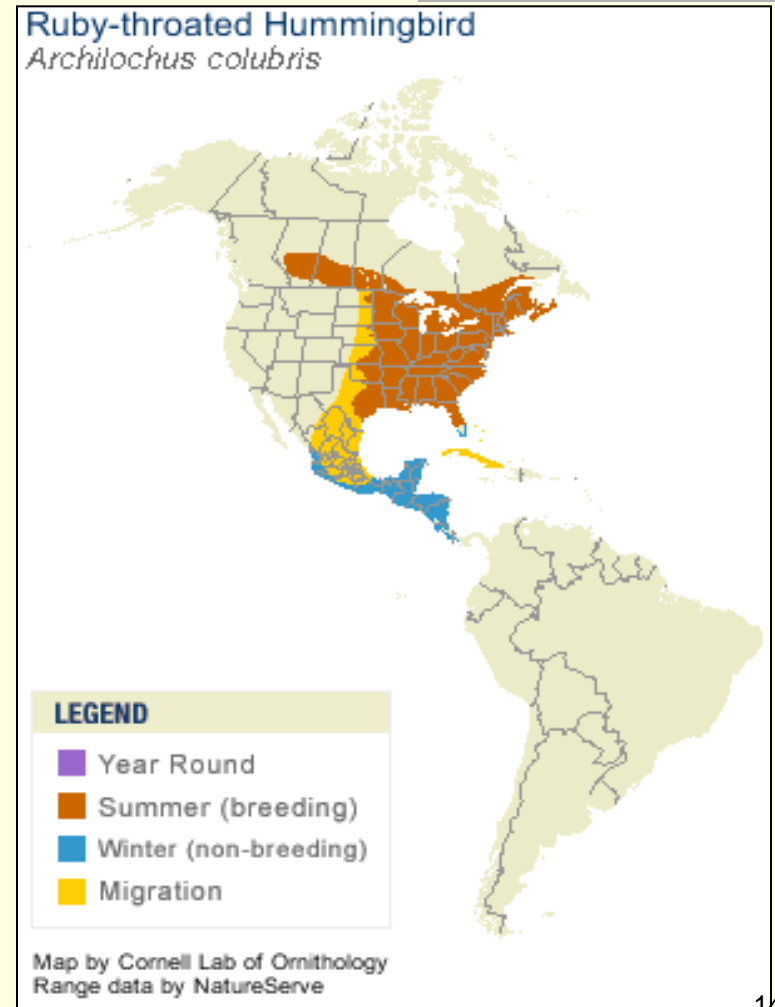


It is almost impossible to tell the females apart.

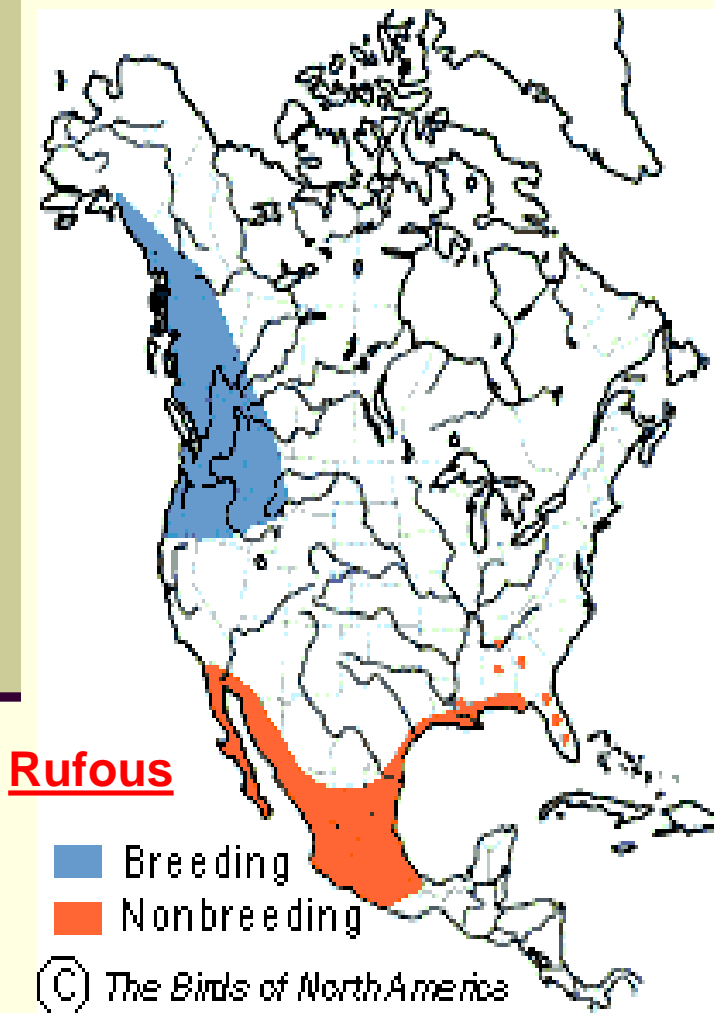
# Answers: Species Quiz # 2

List the continents on which hummingbirds are found.

- **Western Hemisphere**
  - North America
  - South America
- ***As far north as Alaska and as far south as Chile and Patagonia.***



# Answer: Species Quiz # 2, continued



There are 9 species which occur in Chile and Patagonia.

Sparkling Violet-ear *Colibri coruscans*

Andean Hillstar *Oreotrochilus estella*

White-sided Hillstar *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus*

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*

Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephaniodes*

Juan Fernandez

Firecrown *Sephanoides fernandensis* (E)

Oasis Hummingbird *Rhodopsis vesper*

Peruvian Sheartail *Thaumastura cora*

Chilean Woodstar *Eulidia yarrellii*

# Answer: Species Quiz # 3

Hummingbirds drink through  
their beaks like a straw.

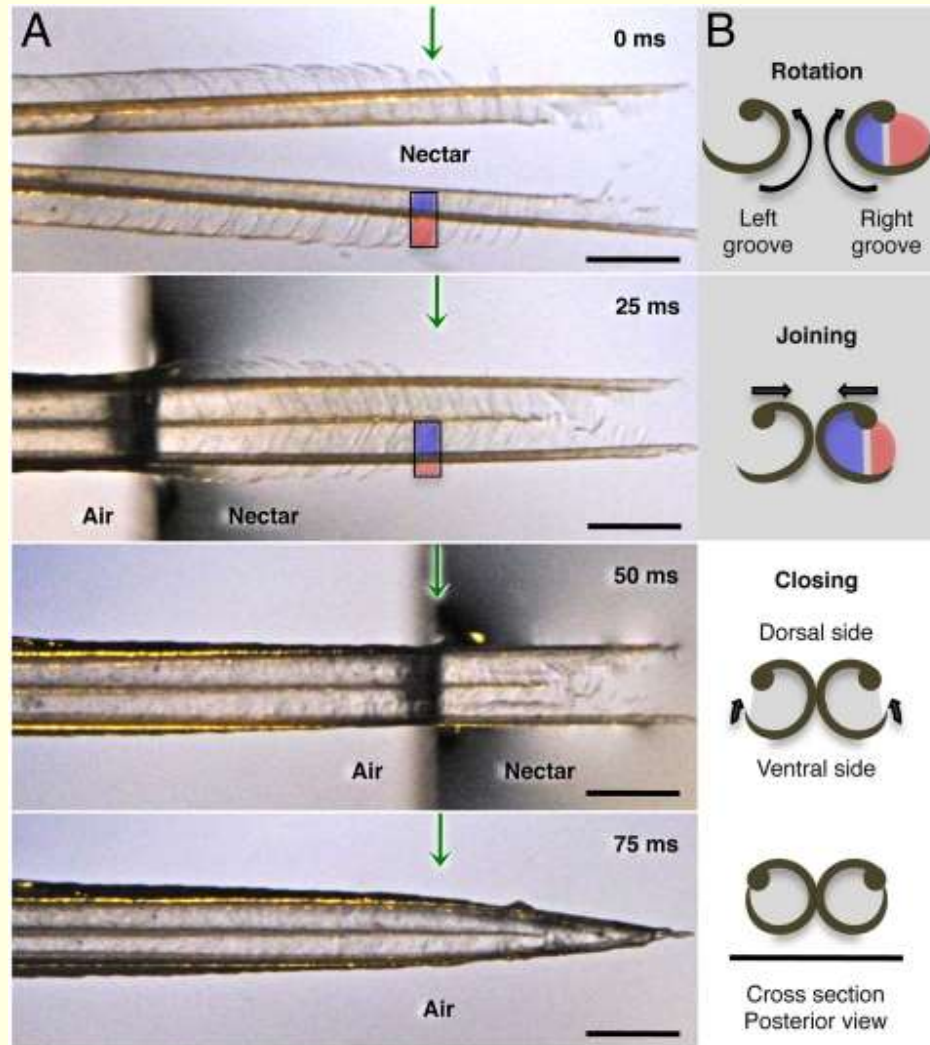
■ Answer: False





# Answer: Species Quiz # 3, continued

Hummingbirds will lap up nectar with their tongues.



# Answer: Species Quiz # 4

How does a hummer's nest stretch?



Plant down from thistles,  
dandelions or cattails

Cotton fibers

Moss and lichen

Small bits of bark or leaves

Feathers

Fuzz or hairs from leaves

Spider silk

# Answer: Species Quiz # 5

## What is torpor?

- Hummingbirds enter torpor to conserve energy.
- ❖ When a hummingbird goes into torpor, their metabolic rate is one-fifteenth (1/15) of normal sleep.
- Torpor can save up to 60% of a hummingbird's available energy.
- ❖ When in torpor, a hummingbird's heart rate can drop to as few as 50 beats per minute.
- During torpor, a hummingbird can lower the body temperature to as low as 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ❖ When hummingbirds go into torpor, they will appear as if they are dead.
- It can take up to an hour for a hummingbird to fully recover from torpor.
- ❖ Torpor can be fatal to a weak hummingbird.

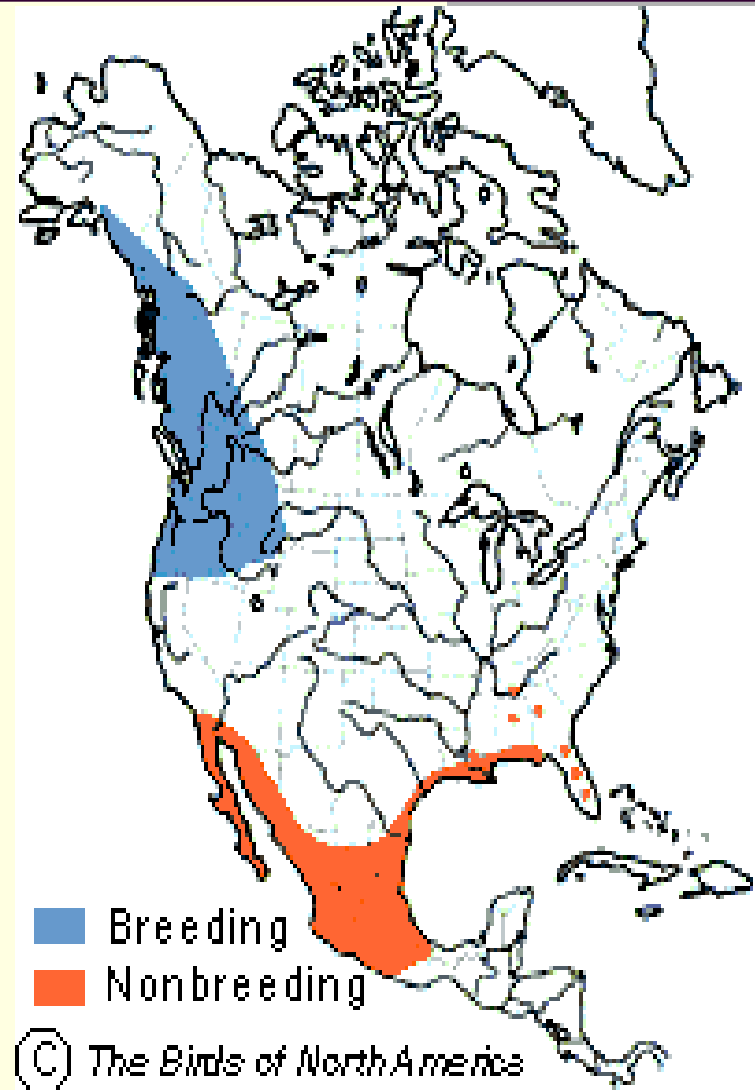
# Answer: Species Quiz # 6

What species of hummingbird travels the greatest distance during migration?

I've already shown  
you the answer:

**Rufous Hummingbird**

■ (*Selasphorus rufus*)



# Answers: Species Quiz #7

- Identify these 4 species of hummingbirds.



Top Left (1):  
Broad Tailed



Top Right (2):  
Magnificent



Bottom Left (3):  
Buff-bellied



Bottom Right(4):  
Blue-throated

# Answer: Species Quiz # 8

**TRUE** - Hummingbirds are the second largest family of birds in the western hemisphere.

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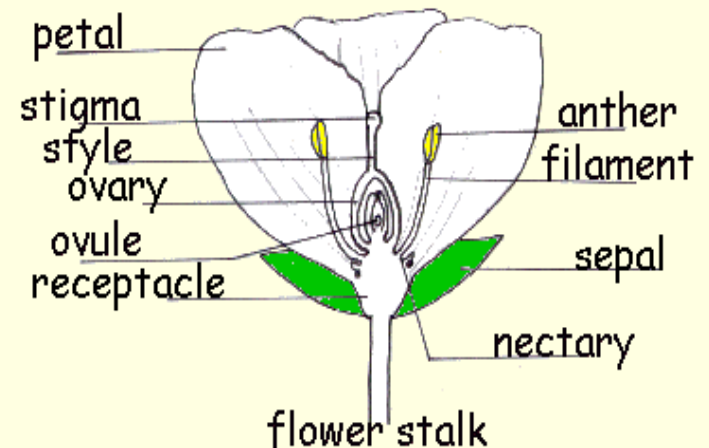
- There are more than 320 species of hummingbirds.
- Most of the species of hummingbirds are found in South America.
- The country of Ecuador has the largest number of species of hummingbirds.
- There are more than fifty (50) species of hummingbirds that breed in Mexico.
- There are more than fifteen (15) species of hummingbirds that breed in the United States.
- There are more than three (3) species of hummingbirds that breed in Canada.
- Texas has the most species of any state: 19 of the 24 verified native U.S. species.

# Answer: Species Quiz # 9

**FALSE: Hummingbirds feed primarily on nectar but also eat insects, insect larva and eggs, and spiders**

## NECTAR

- ❖ Contains sugars, amino acids and other compounds.
- ❖ Varies with flower variety
- ❖ Higher in natives
- ❖ Not produced constantly



TRAP-LINING

GLEANNING

HAWKING

# Answer: Species Quiz # 10

- Who is this famous lady?



Photo by Kathy Adams Clark  
Above her feeder, Sept. 2009

## “BIG MAMMA”

- Female Rufous Hummingbird – November 2003
- Banded by Charlie Brower - January, 2004
- Known age - Hatched in 2002
- Returned to same yard 8 (2010) winters in a row
- In March, 2011 - Age 9 Years, 9 Months
- Same bird proven by band number 32960
- Unknown where she goes during breeding season
- Holds the Texas record as longest lived female Rufous.



# Last Banding, February 2010

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